

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 2, line 4, and ending at line 17, as follows.

--When abnormal communications arise in such a conventional space transmission system due to a natural phenomenon such as a rain fall or a dense fog in the atmosphere operating as transmission paths of light beams, some of the optical receivers of the system may be forced to keep on outputting incorrect signals as long as the natural phenomenon continues. Then, as a result, the computer network devices receiving the output signals from such optical receivers can ~~become~~ go down ~~so~~ such that the devices may have to be initialized in order to restart their operations. Then, even if the optical space communication is returned to normal during the initialization, the device cannot resume its operation at least during the initialization period.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 5, line 5, and ending at line 26, as follows.

--Fig. 1 is a schematic block diagram of an embodiment of an optical space transmission system according to the invention. In Fig. 1, a transmitter is shown on the left and comprises a main signal input section 1 for receiving a main signal to be transmitted to a remotely opposed optical signal receiver and an auxiliary signal generation circuit 2 for generating an auxiliary signal giving an optical DC component level which is detected by the optical signal receiver. The main signal from the main signal input section 1 and the auxiliary signal generated by the auxiliary signal generation circuit 2 are inputted to a multiplexer 3 adapted to multiplex the main signal and the auxiliary signal. The electric

signal produced as a result of the multiplexing operation of the multiplexer 3 is then inputted to an electro-optic converter 4 and converted into an optical signal. The electro-optic converter 4 comprises a laser drive circuit 5 and a laser diode 6 that operates as a light source. Lenses 7, 8 and 9 are sequentially arranged on the light path of the transmitter that is found in front of the laser diode 6.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 6, line 20, and ending at page 7, line 7, as follows.

--Additionally, the output terminals of the amplifier 17 and the clock extraction circuit 22 are connected to a wave shaping circuit 24 and the output terminal of the wave shaping circuit 24 is connected to a switch (signal output switch) 26 adapted to selectively output either the output of the wave shaping circuit 24 or the output of a fixed signal generation circuit 25 for generating a fixed signal having a logic level fixed to 0 or 1, ~~the~~. The output terminal of the fixed signal generation circuit 25 ~~being~~ is also connected to the switch 26. The switching operation of the signal output switch 26 is controlled by the CPU 23 and the output terminal of the signal output switch 26 is connected to a signal output section 27.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 7, line 17, and ending at line 25, as follows.

--The light beam carrying the optical signal transmitted from the transmitter is then made to pass through the lenses 11, 12 and 13 and is received by the light receiving element 15 of the opto-electric converter 14 of the optical signal receiver. The received

optical signal is then converted into an electric signal by way of the electric circuit 16 and the produced electric signal is outputted to the amplifier 17.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 9, line 15, and ending at line 25, as follows.

--More specifically, the level of the DC component, that of the AC component and the information indicating the status of synchronism provided by the clock extraction circuit 22 are inputted to the CPU 23 and the CPU 23 analyses each piece of information. If the CPU 23 determines that one or more ~~than one~~ pieces of the information are found under the predetermined respective threshold levels, it causes the signal output switch 26 to be switched to output a fixed signal having a logic level fixed to 0 or 1 to the signal output section 27.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 11, line 25, and ending at page 12, line 10, as follows.

--Alternatively, it may be so arranged that the switched state is maintained for a predetermined period of time, during which the CPU 23 keeps on ~~analysing~~ analyzing the status of synchronism based on the level of the DC component, that of the AC component and the clock component of the data signal. When the CPU 23 ~~and when it~~ determines that all the values are found above the predetermined respective threshold values and hence a state of normal communication is present at the end of the predetermined period of time, it immediately causes the signal output switch 26 to be

switched to output the data signal from the wave shaping circuit 24 to the signal output section 27. --

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 12, line 24, and ending at page 13, line 12, as follows.

--In other words, even if an abnormal communication arises frequently in the optical space transmission system, the operation of switching the transmission path is not realized so long as such an abnormal communication continues for only a short period of time. Therefore, with the above described embodiment, a time period to be used as reference for determining that the absence of a bit stream is set long and the computer network devices should switch the respective transmission paths is provided so that an abnormal communication is determined to exist when the time period of the absence of a bit stream exceeds the reference time period. With this arrangement, the computer network devices reliably switch the respective transmission paths whenever an abnormal communication arises in the optical space transmission system.--